

STUDIES ON CRISIS AND RISK COMMUNICATION FOR SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)

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We got SARS Action Plan of most local governments from all over the country in Japan, analyzed the present state of measures against SARS, and studied the issues associated with it. We found that the extent of Action Plan was different among prefectural governments enough to suspect that the extent of measures against SARS was also. Based on the results, we carried out a questionnaire survey for each local government to know more about their approaches to SARS and to analyze thoroughly the problem of that. All 47 prefectural governments responded to the questionnaires. We statistically analyzed the results of them, graded the measures of prefectural governments against SARS judging from their replies, and got some interesting results as follows. Fig.1, Fig2, and Fig3 show histograms respectively about the advance measures before the crisis of each prefecture by scored 1 to 5, the information sharing of each prefecture by scored 3 to 8, and coordination among local agencies of each prefecture by scored 0 to 3.

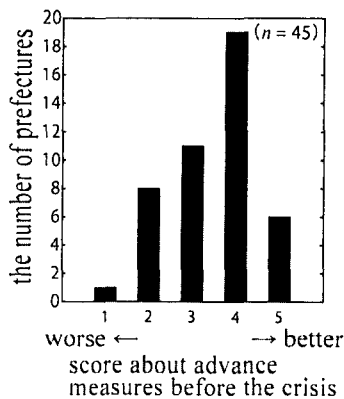


Fig.1; histogram about the advance measures before the crisis of each prefecture

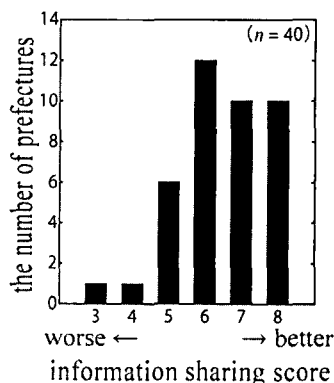


Fig.2; histogram about the information sharing of each prefecture

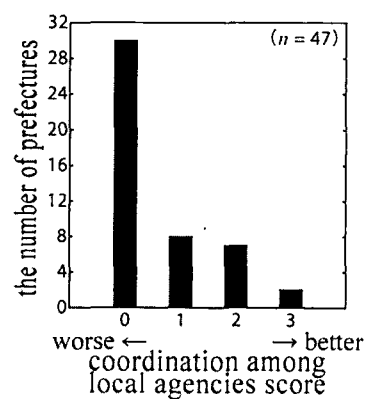


Fig.3; histogram about coordination among local agencies of each prefecture

These figures indicate that the improvement of advance measures, sharing information, and coordination among local agencies will probably encourage crisis and risk communication for SARS. Considering also the other results, in order to facilitate them, we recommend concretely such as the following items; standardization of the filing forms, SARS of patients' agreement on coordination among local agencies with neighbor prefectures, provision of information about SARS in mother languages to foreigners.